

## Private Pesticide Applicator Training and Certification In Montana

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The Environmental Protection Agency designates certain pesticides as "restricted-use pesticides" because they are either toxic to humans and animals or they have the potential to contaminate the environment. Some restricted-use pesticides include Tordon 22K, Hoelon 3EC, Disyston 15% granular insecticide, Furadan, Warrior and many more herbicides and insecticides.

The Montana Pesticides Act requires that you be trained and certified before you can purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides (RUPs). Private or farm applicators wanting to purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides should read this publication. Commercial and governmental pesticide applicators should contact the Montana Department of Agriculture, (406) 444-5400, for more information.

### Pesticide Certification Districts

Montana is divided into five districts for private pesticide applicator training (PAT). Each district has a five-year recertification cycle ending

December 31st. All applicators in that district must accrue six recertification credits by the end of the fifth year before they can be eligible to renew their pesticide license for another five-year cycle.

### Who Needs To Be Certified?

Anyone who purchases, applies or supervises the use of restricted-use pesticides on land that they rent, own or lease must be certified and licensed. Family members and employees of certified applicators may purchase and use restricted-use pesticides but they must be trained and supervised by the certified applicator.

Certified private applicators are legally responsible for any problems that result from restricted-use pesticide applications made by family members or employees.

### ***-Remember!***

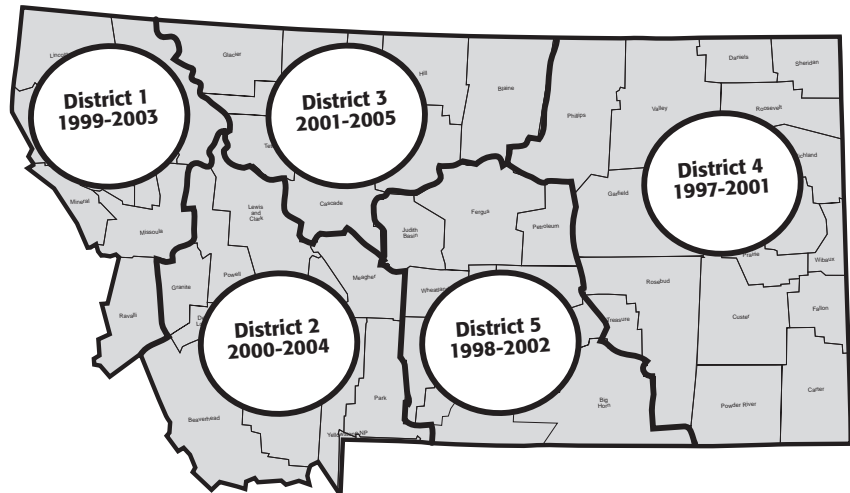
***Restricted-use pesticides can only be used on property that is owned, rented, or leased by the certified applicator!***

### **Certified (licensed) private pesticide applicators CAN:**

- apply restricted-use pesticides to ground that they own, rent, or lease. (Montana Pesticides Act: Administrative Rules; 4.10.403)
- apply general-use pesticides to ground that they own, rent, or lease and that of their immediate neighbor. (Montana Pesticides Act; 80-8-209 (6))
- request that the Montana Department of Agriculture issue duplicate licenses to family members or employees to purchase and use restricted-use pesticides on land that the certified applicator owns, rents or leases. (Montana Pesticides Act: Administrative Rules; 4.10.403,404). This request must be made at the time of application or renewal and is noted on the "Application For A Farm Applicator Special Use Permit" form provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

### **Certified private pesticide applicators CANNOT:**

- apply pesticides commercially.
- apply restricted-use pesticides on land that they do not own, rent, or lease.
- sell or give away pesticides.
- give their permit to non-family members or non-employees to buy restricted-use pesticides.



**Pesticide Certification Districts in Montana**

### **How Do Applicators Become Certified?**

To become certified for the first time, you must either attend an approved training program or pass an exam administered by an authorized representative of the MSU Pesticide Education Program, usually the local county Extension agent.

After you qualify for certification, you must mail a completed application\* and the appropriate fees to the Montana Department of Agriculture. The Montana Department of Agriculture will then mail you a license also known as a farm applicator license.

Once you receive this license, it is advisable that you register the Applicator ID Number and Expiration Date with the local county agent and with the MSU Pesticide Education Program office. You can then be assured that all training sessions you attend will be properly recorded for recertification.

The county Extension agent may also issue a temporary permit, provided that it is the first time that you have applied for a license. Temporary permits cannot be issued to applicators who have allowed their certification to expire. There is a two-year waiting period before an applicator can be eligible to

apply for a temporary permit.

NOTE: Individuals who obtain a license in years 1 through 4 of their district's cycle must obtain six recertification credits before the end of the cycle to be eligible to renew their license. Applicators obtaining their license in year 5 (the last year) of their district's cycle do not need an additional six credits.

### **Retaining Your Certification**

To maintain certification, you must acquire six hours of approved pesticide education training before the end of your district's five-year cycle. In lieu of obtaining recertification credits, you can opt to take a closed book exam during the last year of the cycle.

As a certified private pesticide applicator, you are responsible for maintaining your license. You are also responsible for keeping track of the programs you attend. Do not wait until the last minute before you decide to attend a training program. There may be none available. You have five years to obtain six credits! To view a schedule of approved training programs, click on Private Applicator Training on the Montana Pesticide Education Program website: <http://mtpesticides.org>

Individual applicators may request credits for meetings, conventions, or other events that are not reviewed by the MSU-Pesticide Education Program. Credits may be awarded provided that a copy of the program agenda and proof of attendance is submitted within 30 days of the event.

### **Private Applicator Fees**

In 1993, legislative changes to the Montana Pesticide Act resulted in increased fees for the private applicator license. The fee for private pesticide applicators is currently \$50.00 and is distributed as follows:

- \$15.00 (30%) to Montana Department of Agriculture for administration.
- \$20.00 (40%) to Montana State University Extension Service to support the pesticide certification and training program.
- \$15.00 (30%) to fund the waste pesticides and pesticide container disposal program.
- The \$50.00 fee is prorated over the 5-year recertification cycle. For example, an initial applicator paying his fees during the 2nd year of the cycle would pay \$40.00. The payment for the 3rd year would be \$30.00 and so forth.

\* *MDA Form -Application For A Farm Applicator Special Use Permit*

## Your License and Applicator ID Number

When you receive your license from the Montana Department of Agriculture, you should be aware of two sets of numbers.

*The first number is in the upper right hand corner*

The number in the upper right hand corner is a control number used by the Montana Department of Agriculture and does not relate to you as an applicator. This is not your Applicator ID Number. You will never need to use this number.

*The second set of numbers is above your name.*

This is your Applicator ID Number. *This number is important!* You will need to use it when filling out your restricted-use pesticide records and when you sign in to pesticide recertification programs! Equally important when signing in is the expiration date (VALID THRU).

The Applicator ID number contains a series of numbers and dashes that appear similar to the following: 2-44-09222-11 (see Figure 1)

### Remember!

***It is essential that you mark the correct applicator ID number and expiration date on all sign-in and attendance rosters of programs you attend. Your credits will not be recorded if your correct applicator ID number or expiration date is not present.***

## Keeping Records of Restricted-Use Pesticide Applications

You are required by federal law to keep records whenever you apply restricted-use pesticides. You must

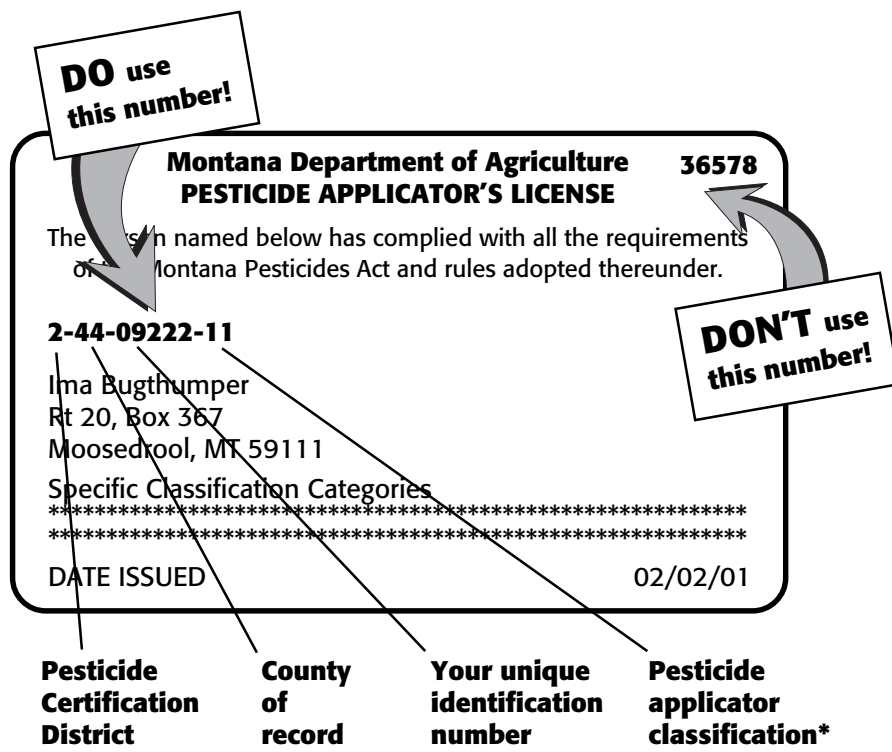


Figure 1. Your certification card

record this information within 14 days of the application and you must keep these records for at least two years after the application. While there is no standard form for these records, there is a standard format that includes:

- Applicator's name and applicator ID number
- Product brand name as found on the label
- EPA registration number as found on the label
- Date of the application
- Location of the application—not the farm address, but the actual location of the application.
- Amount of undiluted pesticide used. Knowing your sprayer calibration helps.
- Crop, stored product (such as grain) or site sprayed (such as rangeland fencerows)
- Size of the area

Spot treatments are especially useful in the control of noxious

weeds. If you apply restricted-use pesticides on the same day to a total area of less than 1/10 of an acre, you are required to note it as "spot application" and include a short description of the area treated.

## Monitoring of Restricted-Use Pesticide Records

The United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA-AMS) has the authority to monitor certified private applicators' records. Private applicators are inspected by an authorized representative of the USDA-AMS. Random selections are made from the state's private applicator list or from dealer records of restricted use sales in Montana. There are penalties for violations of the Federal pesticide recordkeeping requirement

Unless you are a commercial applicator, you are not required by law to keep records of general-use pesticide applications, but it is a good idea. Good records will help you know where you have sprayed, and

\*Certified applicators are indicated by the number 11. Commercial applicators receive the number 12 and governmental pesticide applicators are assigned the number 15.

with what pesticide.

## **Pesticide Laws and the Private Pesticide Applicator**

There are two main laws that regulate pesticide use by private, commercial and urban pesticide applicators in Montana: the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); and the Montana Pesticides Act.

Under FIFRA, selling restricted-use pesticides to non-certified applicators is prohibited and using a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with the label is a violation.

Under the Montana Pesticides Act, a farm or private pesticide applicator is any person who applies pesticides to his or her own crops or land. This includes suburban residents. Any individual who purchases restricted-use pesticides must be certified and licensed. An individual who purchases general-use pesticides does not need an applicator's license unless they are a commercial or governmental applicator. The Montana Pesticides Act also created a waste pesti-

cide collection program funded by pesticide applicator fees.

Other laws affecting pesticide use in Montana include the Montana Water Quality Act, Montana's Solid Waste Laws, and the Montana Clean Air Act. Under the Montana Water Quality Act it is unlawful to pollute any state waters; or to place or cause any wastes to be placed, in a location where they will cause pollution of state waters. This includes allowing water treated with aquatic herbicides to pollute state waters. Montana's Solid Waste Laws prohibit the disposal of any solid waste in any location not licensed as a solid waste disposal site. This includes disposing of pesticide containers in any site but a licensed solid waste disposal site.

The Montana Clean Air Act prohibits the burning of pesticide containers (cardboard, paper bags, plastic bags, etc.).

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***Remember:***  
***As a certified pesticide applicator it is your***

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***responsibility for knowing and following the law!***

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## **For more information contact:**

Your local MSU Extension Service Office or the MSU Pesticide Education Office: Department of Entomology:

P.O. Box 173020  
Montana State University,  
Bozeman MT 59717-3020  
Phone: (406) 994-3518  
Fax: (406) 994-6029

Or go to the Montana Pesticide Education Program webpage:  
<http://mtpesticides.org>

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